REMARKS

The last Office Action of May 2, 2008 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 2, 7 and 8 have been canceled. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fishman (US 6,741,905) in view of Gelston (US 2001/0050610).

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth features previously recited in claim 2, which has now been canceled, and subject matter of claim 3. More particularly, amended claim 1 recites an icon for graphic visualization of task-oriented steps in industrial control processes, wherein the icon includes at least one graphic symbol and at least one placeholder implemented as a frame surrounding the at least one graphic symbol. The size of the placeholder is representative of the duration of a task-oriented process step and the icon displays a state change of a task-oriented process step as a change in color of the at least one graphic symbol.

Fishman shows (FIGS. 3b and 3c) icons for graphic visualization of task-oriented steps which each include a graphic symbol and at least one placeholder implemented as a frame (see leftmost icons in upper part of the figures). However, Fishman does not teach or suggest adjusting the size of the placeholder to be representative of the duration of a task-oriented process step, and instead displays the time duration in the lower part of the figures on a separate timeline as dark bars (col.10, lines 51–53; cited in the office action). These dark bars do not include a graphic symbol as claimed and can therefore not be equated with the icons of the invention.

Gelston discloses in FIG. 31 and the corresponding description in paragraph [0133] a screen display for tracking patients. The screen display is

divided into a plurality of grids positions, and further explanation can be displayed by clicking one of the icons. Furthermore, the screen displays are color coded, which, for example, indicates which patients have received attention and which are currently waiting for what type of attention.

However, Gelston's grid positions are fixed, and Gelston fails to teach or suggest adjusting the size of the placeholder so as to be representative of the duration of a task-oriented process step.

Accordingly, neither Fishman nor Gelston, taken alone or in combination, reasonably teach or suggest at least *adjusting the size of the placeholder so as to be representative of the duration of a task-oriented process step*, because this claimed feature is absent in both references.

Claim 5 has been amended to include subject matter of canceled claim 8 and now recites a method for graphic visualization of task-oriented steps of parts programs in machine tools or production machines with icons, with the steps of: arranging the icons in form of rows and columns, with each icon graphically visualizing an individual task-oriented step of a parts program, associating each row or each column with a particular parts program, with a corresponding row width or a corresponding column width of an icon in said row or column representing a duration of the task-oriented process step for said parts program, and displaying, upon selection of an icon by a user, the corresponding parts program associated with the row or column in ASCII code or as a step.

As discussed *supra* with reference to claim 1, Fishman nor Gelston, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least that *a corresponding row width or a corresponding column width of an icon in a row or column represents a duration of the task-oriented process step for the parts program*.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that neither Fishman nor Gelston, nor a combination thereof teaches or suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 5.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claims 1 and 5, respectively, share their presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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